by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State police forces, long term deployment of para military forces,intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) removal of socio-cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Talks with Hurriyat leaders

†2444. DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is going to talk to the leaders of Hurriyat Conference;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) to (c) the Government is committed to having dialogue with all groups and different shades of opinion in the State of Jammu and Kashmir on a sustained basis in consultation with the democratically elected State Government whenever needed. On two earlier occasions, the Government had held talks with the Hurriyat then led by Maulana Abbas Ansari.

Statutory Development Board for Konkan

2445. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had suggested to the State Government of Maharashtra to reconsider their proposal for establishment of separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have since received the reply from the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra was requested to reconsider its proposal for establishment of a separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan, Considering the development that has already taken place in the region as brought out in the Human Development Report published by the Government of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra reiterated their proposal for establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan.

(e) Government of Maharashtra has recently been requested to obtain the views of both House of the State Legislature, on the setting up a separate Development Board for Konkan.

Encouraging use of non-conventional and renewable sources

2446. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for encouraging the use of non-conventional and renewable sources of energy;

(b) if so, the details therof and the achievement made so far and proposed to be made in near future;

(c) whether any initiatives are being made by Government to derive energy by fusion of hydrogen into helium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To encourage investment in non-conventional energy, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided which include accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes and duties. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential state. A higher level of Central financial assistance is being provided to special category States and islands for setting up non-conventional energy project. In addition, publicity and awareness is being created about the